

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-7 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1-7 are canceled and replaced with new claims 8-11. As suggested in the Official Action, the new claims include method claims in addition to system claims.

Claims 1-7 were rejected as anticipated by HALL et al. 6,026,375.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested because the reference does not disclose or suggest that a dealer terminal includes means for sending a latest commodity information to an information retrieval service terminal and a user terminal includes means for sending an area and commodity item to the information retrieval service terminal. The user terminal includes means for displaying the retrieval result including the latest and lowest price information of the commodity item in the area. The information retrieval service terminal includes means for receiving the latest commodity information. The above-noted elements are recited in new system claim 10 and the corresponding method is recited in new method claim 8.

As previously set forth, the HALL method and apparatus are exclusively concerned with reducing a user's wait time when

ordering goods and services in a mobile environment. HALL does not take into account the latest and lowest price information of a commodity item.

As previously argued, column 9, lines 51-55 of HALL disclose that the process culminates with the user being presented with a single service provider that is deemed acceptable by the system based on a wait time-based criteria. This system presents a line item to the user on a "take it or leave it" basis.

In contrast, the recited information retrieval service terminal sends retrieval results including the latest and lowest price information of a commodity item in an area.

By way of example, page 8, lines 9-13 of the present specification disclose that "On the screen of the display section of the user side terminal, information including the name, address, price and stock of the shop/company which offers the lowest price is displayed." Page 10, lines 22-27 further disclose that "if the above-stated portable terminal is used as the user side terminal, range designation is automatically made and several shops are listed with respect to the lowest price of the commodity by user's visiting a shopping district and transmitting information at the district."

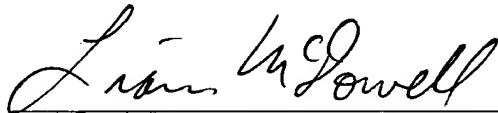
No such features are described by HALL. Thus, it is believed to be apparent that none of new claims 8-11 are anticipated by HALL.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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